



SOUTH ASIA: Pockets of heavy rain (100 mm or more) persisted over rice areas of northern and eastern India, fueling additional flooding. Locally heavy rain also continued in cotton areas of north-central India, maintaining unfavorably wet conditions for open bolls. While the southwest monsoon typically begins its seasonal withdrawal from the northwest in mid-September, late surges have historically caused problems for maturing cotton in Pakistan and neighboring sections of India. Elsewhere, however, monsoon activity tapered off from recent weeks, with much of southern India recording less than 10 mm. Variable rain (5-66 mm) maintained generally favorable moisture levels in central India's soybean belt (western Madhya Pradesh), but the continuation of below-normal rainfall in Gujarat limited moisture for groundnuts and rainfed cotton.